

SJP Eco Garden Liturgy May 24th 2020

This week marks the 5th anniversary week of Pope Francis's encyclical Laudato Si'. The readings and prayers draw widely on the daily meditations of Franciscan Richard Rohr.

We'll take a minute to fully 'arrive' in our chosen space, settling into a comfortable position, stilling ourselves, noticing the gentle rise and fall of our breaths and gradually expanding our attention to the sounds and sights of nature around us.

Reading. The whole world is impregnated with the divine presence. Our world is a sacred whole in which we have a sacred mission. The actions we take—and structures we build—mirror how we relate to Earth and each other. Unless we have some roots in a spiritual practice that holds life sacred and encourages joyful communion with all our fellow beings, facing the enormous challenges ahead becomes nearly impossible. We need our “skin-encapsulated egos” to be replaced by wider constructs of identity and self-interest—by what has been termed the “ecological self”, co-extensive with other beings and the life of our planet. We need a shift in our perception of reality—both a cognitive revolution and spiritual awakening. By expanding our self-interest to include other beings in the body of the Earth, the ecological self also widens our window on time, freeing us from identifying our goals and rewards solely in terms of our present lifetime.

Evolution's span is measured in eons not decades -

Cynthia Bourgeault

Deep hope flows over deep time -

Teilhard de Chardin

Prayer.

Oh God, may Creation be our cathedral. May we recognise the daily cosmic events above us and around us and beneath us every minute of our lives - in the sky and the oceans, the earth and under the earth - as visible symbols of the reality of God, and as channels for God's grace.

Garden Meditation 15 minutes.

Apprehend God in all things, for God is in all things.

Every single creature is full of God and is a book about God.

Every creature is a word of God.

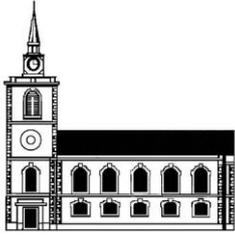
If I spent enough time with the tiniest creature—even a caterpillar—

I would never have to prepare a sermon.

So full of God is every creature

Meister Eckhart

If you are in the fortunate position of having some outside space, please do use these 15 minutes to be out in it. Alternatively gaze out at it from a window /door with a view or simply hold something from the natural world in your hand. Focus on one thing that draws your notice - a tree or bush, leaf, flower, twig or stone. Gaze at it as you would a beloved, as if you were engaged in a mutual gazing.



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Regathering. If you would like to, please share in a few words any particular feeling, thought or response you have had.

Reading: from Psalm 65

O God of our salvation; you are the hope of all the ends of the earth and of the farthest seas.
By your strength you established the mountains; you are girded with might.
You silence the roaring of the seas, the roaring of their waves, the tumult of the peoples.
Those who live at earth's farthest bounds are awed by your signs;
you make the gateways of the morning and the evening shout for joy.

You visit the earth and water it, you greatly enrich it; the river of God is full of water;
you provide the people with grain, for so you have prepared it.
You water its furrows abundantly, settling its ridges,
softening it with showers and blessing its growth.
You crown the year with your bounty; your wagon tracks overflow with richness.
The pastures of the wilderness overflow, and the hills gird themselves with joy.

Prayer

Great Mystery keep my remembrance pure,
Great Mystery fill my heart with love,
Holy winds blow in me.
May my prayer be beautiful
May my remembrance
Be as incense to thee
In the sacred grove of eternity

- from Chinook Psalter

Blessing

Let us depart giving thanks for the good earth

Blessed be God forever

Let us go out in unity with all who seek to preserve the earth

Blessed be God forever

Let us go out in the sure conviction that a new communion with all Creation is possible

Blessed be God forever

May the blessing of God the Creator, Christ the Redeemer,
and the Holy Spirit, sustainer of all life,
be with us and with all the creatures of the earth, now and always.

Amen